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LET'S TALK ABOUT CANE TYPE DENDROBIUMS

(Page S "talks" about Cool House Dendrobiums.)

Best known of the Cane Type Dendrobiums is the lavender D.Phalaenopsis. The tall, slender pseudo-bulbs, averaging one foot to three feet in height, do look somewhat like a cane, or even a miniature bamboo pole.

Unlike the "cool house" varieties, these Dendrobiums grow and bloom side-by-side with your Cattleyas, requiring no special cooling out or drying off to force them into flower. While losing some leaves in the short resting period, they are not as completely deciduous as Cool House Dendrobs.

And what an incredible abundance of flowers they produce! Long, graceful sprays of white, pink, lavender, red, purple, green, yellow, bronze or brown flowers! Dancing gently when the slightest breeze touches them. You don't need to be a poet to imagine they are birds, moths, butterflies, or even fairies, dancing, swaying and lifting their "wings".

The blooms last and last, usually staying fresh and lovely three months or longer. Many will even bloom again on last year's lead!

And no flowers are easier to arrange than Dendrobium sprays. Put them in any vase, in any manner, and they look lovely, not requiring the patience or ingenuity you must use to make a short-stemmed Cattleya a vital part of your floral arrangement.

Three, five or seven Dendrobium blooms, wired and taped into a corsage or "hair-do" will bring admiring exclamations, even from friends who may not immediately recognize them as Orchids.

A single Dendrobium bloom, worn as a buttonaire by a masculine Orchid enthusiast, is as well recognized in Orchid Circles as a fraternity pin or Rotary button.

As to cultural requirements, the "don't over- water" warning is even more important here than with your Cattleyas, the dryest periods being right after repotting and right before bloom spikes are formed. If you over water when plants should be throwing out spikes, they may make cultural off-shoots instead.

A second warning, "Don't over pot!" may sell you on the idea that dendrobs thrive on neglect, and they do, up to a point. They are not really happy until they are "pot bound". Can you imagine a plant three feet tall doing well in a little 3-inch pot? You'll learn to accept them that way, if they are Dendrobiums.

If you are so busy you have trouble finding time to repot your Orchids, Dendrobiums are for you. They so seldom need to be repotted!

Another point in their favor: Dendrobiums reach blooming size much more rapidly than Cattleyas. If they've ever heard the old bromide, "Seven years to bloom an Orchid", they don't show it. "Thirty months to bloom an Orchid" applies to most of the Dendrobiums.

Have I sold you on trying at least one blooming size "cane type" Dendrobium?

Send me $7.50 and I'll choose one such plant for you. The majority of these plants are Fall blooming, so your plant should be thoroughly acclimated to your growing conditions before it starts its next bloom spike.

Maybe, like another customer, you'll decide: "While I love all my Orchids, I think Dendrobiums are my favorites!"